

---

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMERCE  
NEWS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230**

---



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 31, 2005

Contact: Robert Henderson  
MBDA – Atlanta National Enterprise Center  
(404) 730-3300

**M. Gill Associates Awarded Federal Funds  
to Expand Minority Entrepreneurship in Southern Florida**

*\$338,750 Grant to Operate Miami-Ft. Lauderdale Minority Business Development Center*

Washington, DC -- Today, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) announced a continued partnership with M. Gill Associates to operate the Miami-Ft. Lauderdale Minority Business Development Center. The Center provides management and technical assistance to enhance entrepreneurial activity within the minority business community. An award in the amount of \$338,750 has been presented to Ms. Marie Gill, President & CEO, M. Gill Associates.

"By partnering with the M. Gill Associates, an established firm known for providing business development services to minority enterprises, MBDA will come one step closer to achieving its goal of growing the number and size of African American, Asian Pacific American, Hispanic and Native American businesses in the United States," said MBDA Atlanta Regional Director, Robert Henderson.

With access to the Caribbean and Latin America, the Miami-Ft. Lauderdale Minority Business Development Center, and its network of strategic partners, will focus on building and strengthening medium and large minority business enterprises. Particular emphasis will be placed on businesses poised to create new jobs and generate revenues in excess of \$0.5 million.

"The pursuit of economic opportunity and business ownership is an American dream for entrepreneurs. At MBDA, we believe that minority entrepreneurs play a crucial role in creating and sharing wealth, as well as improving the quality of life for those with whom they work and the community at-large. Given that 90 percent of the U.S. population growth through 2050 will be in minority communities, the nation must work together to achieve a goal of entrepreneurial parity," added MBDA National Director, Ronald N. Langston.

*The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is the only federal agency created specifically to foster the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in the United States. MBDA works closely with corporate America, academic institutions, professional trade associations and governmental agencies to help minority entrepreneurs access capital, procurement and contract opportunities, technical assistance and business development services. For more information, visit [www.mbda.gov](http://www.mbda.gov)*